



The Grange Newsletter

Grange Association

January 2020

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Page 3
story

Traquair RHSC murals

www.grangeassociation.org

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The Grange Association wishes all in the Grange a Happy New Year. We will continue to strive over the next year to protect and enhance our area for all who live here, work here or visit. You can help by joining the Association. You will find membership details in the 4-page supplement in the middle of this issue.

We hope you find items of interest to read in our pages. There are the usual favourites as well as articles on the Arts and Crafts artist, Phoebe Anna Traquair, responsible for the beautiful decoration in the Sick Kids' Hospital Chapel; a report on the success of last year's leaf clearing operation; a reminder to submit nominations for the Grange Award; and advance notification of this year's Grange Fair.

As always, we welcome your comments and contributions.

Jenny Dawe, Editor

Contents

History & Heritage

Phoebe Anna Traquair

Pages 3-4

Local Memories

Joe Sharp, gardener

Spotlight

Donald Henderson

Memorial Bench

Page 5

Profile

Norah MacFarlane

Pages 6-7

Local Matters

Grange Award
Carbon Footprint

Page 7

Nature Notes

Falcons in the City

Astley Ainslie update

Page 8

Trees

Blight and affliction

Local Environment

Leaf Clearing success

Useful Contacts

Page 9

Planning

Page 10

Gardening Matters

Page 11

Diary Dates

Grange Fair 2020

Page 12

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GRANGE ASSOCIATION CONTACTS

Nigel Ayton (662 8720)

2 South Lauder Road, EH9 2LL

Chair & Planning/MSCC Liaison

chair@grangeassociation.com

planning@grangeassociation.com

Jenny Dawe (447 1296)

1 Strathearn Road, EH9 2AH

Vice Chair & Newsletter

liaison@grangeassociation.com

Sue Tritton (667 8027)

6 Grange Terrace, EH9 2LD

Hon Secretary & Planning/GPCC Liaison

secretary@grangeassociation.com

Martin Sinclair (667 4250)

5 St Thomas Road, EH9 2LQ

Hon Treasurer

treasurer@grangeassociation.com

Richard Brown (667 8289)

90 Grange Loan, EH9 2EP

Membership

membership@grangeassociation.com

Donald Henderson (07733 332214)

2 Seton Place, EH9 2JT

donald.henderson@grangeassociation.com

Roger Kellett (667 0300)

10 Wyvern Park, EH9 2JY

Astley Ainslie Community Engagement

aah@grangeassociation.com

Jean McCutcheon (667 7645)

14 Oswald Court, EH9 2HY

jean.mccutcheon@grangeassociation.com

Isobel Miller (667 4235)

61/7 Grange Loan, EH9 2EG

Events

events@grangeassociation.com

Edythe Murie (07779 763930)

28 Mortonhall Road, EH9 2HN

Garden Group

gardens@grangeassociation.com

Peter Pitkin (447 3220)

8 Blackford Road, EH9 2DS

Tree Advice

trees@grangeassociation.com

Lucy Richardson (07870 307224)

31 Fountainhall Road, EH9 2LN

Newsletter Distribution/Grange Fair

lucy.richardson@grangeassociation.com

Neil Robb (07834 617374)

2b Lauder Road, EH9 2EJ

Web Services

website@grangeassociation.com

Honorary President:

Sofia Leonard (667 2339) 12 St Alban's Road, EH9 2PA sofia@jbleo.plus.com

To advertise in *The Grange Newsletter*, contact

Martin Sinclair
(667 4250)

email: treasurer@grangeassociation.com



Your contributions, photographs and feedback are welcome. Please send to Jenny Dawe
email: liaison@grangeassociation.com

HISTORY & HERITAGE

Phoebe Anna Traquair and the Sick Children's Mortuary Chapel

On 1 October last year the Association's winter talks programme opened with a very informative illustrated talk from Elizabeth Cumming and Anne-Marie Scott on the Arts and Crafts artist Phoebe Anna Traquair HRSA (1852-1936) and the chapel she painted for the Edinburgh Sick Children's Hospital. Here, Elizabeth Cumming elaborates on some aspects of the artist and the Chapel.

Phoebe Anna, an Irish-born artist, settled in Edinburgh in 1874 when her husband Dr Ramsay Heatley Traquair was appointed Keeper of Natural History at the Museum of Science and Art in Chambers Street. As artist and craftsworker, she would produce beautiful embroideries, finely illuminated manuscripts and tooled bookcovers, and exquisite enamels over the next forty years, winning an international reputation for such crafts. In her lifetime she was particularly recognised in Scotland for three significant mural schemes within Edinburgh. The first of these, her decoration for the mortuary chapel of the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, today remains the least well known and least accessible. Its story is a remarkable one of how not one but two buildings were transformed by art.

In April 1885 Mrs Traquair (as she was known) was approached by the Edinburgh Social Union and asked if she would decorate a converted coalhouse on the original hospital site at Lauriston Lane, now to be used as a mortuary chapel. The building was small, only 3 metres by 4 metres, but the hospital ladies committee hoped that it could become 'a suitable place where the bodies can be left reverently and lovingly for the parents before the burials'. As a mother of three children herself, Traquair was happy to accept the commission.

The decorations were completed in 1886 and strongly reflect themes of motherhood. In a time when as many as 8% of children did not live to see their first birthday, Traquair aimed to offer comfort and support to grieving parents through her decoration scheme. Her painted walls are a glorious mix of ideas drawn from knowledge of mediaeval illuminated manuscripts, Byzantine art and also Pre-Raphaelite artists such as Dante Gabriel Rossetti. Colour and pattern are everywhere, with reds, blues and



gold reflecting her interest in mediaeval book art. In fact, a review in the *Scottish Art Review* in 1889 refers to the murals as 'a piece of illumination enlarged'.

In 1891 the Sick Children's hospital moved to a new site at Rillbank in Sciennes and the little chapel was abandoned. Then, thanks to a petition supported by Traquair herself, in 1894 some of the murals were successfully transported to a new purpose-built mortuary chapel. Although the old hospital site had been acquired by the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, the murals were at serious risk of slow destruction as the chapel was no longer being used, and it was felt that the risks of moving them were no worse than leaving them in place. There were significant technical and logistical difficulties; indeed, some of the panels were moved and installed still attached to the bricks of the old building. Removing murals nowadays goes against the professional code of conduct practised by painting conservators in all but extreme cases (such as following an earthquake) but the 1890s was a different age.

As the new mortuary was larger than the original, panels from the first scheme were repaired, surrounded with fresh plaster, and the spaces filled with an enlarged decoration scheme. Although the two schemes are united by their use of colour, the second scheme deliberately uses a simpler and more childlike manner. Phoebe Traquair completed this second chapel in 1898.

The mortuary chapel remains in occasional use within the Sick Children's Hospital to this day, and the building is now



Category 'A' listed to reflect its importance. Curtains were first installed in the 1970s so that the murals can be covered when required, as the religious themes reflected in the images are not always appropriate.

In a published 1899 interview Phoebe Traquair considered this to be her 'finest piece of work', adding that 'in

Cont. overleaf

HISTORY & HERITAGE

some ways I shall never do better or maybe as well'. In fact the murals are the sole survivor of around 20 commissions instigated by the Edinburgh Social Union. However, this mural scheme painted across two sites in two separate decades again faces an uncertain future. With the relocation of the Royal Hospital for Sick Children to a new building at Little France, the existing site at Sciennes has been sold to the Downing Group as a commercial development, with the proposal that the mortuary building be converted into 2 small flats. The chapel itself with the murals would be retained by the developer and made accessible to visitors.



In early February 2019, City of Edinburgh Council approved plans to develop the site as a mixture of managed student accommodation and private housing. However, the mortuary building was exempted from approval and instead was given the 'continuing' decision, on the basis that further work was required to identify a more suitable future use. Concerns expressed by the Mansfield Traquair Trust at the planning hearing included whether domestic use was an appropriate option for a space that contains Category 'A' listed murals (potential risk of accidents); the complications inherent in

having 3 separate owners of such a space; and concerns about the technical details of the conversion proposal and whether this might in fact result in harm to the murals.

Consideration now needs to be given to alternative future uses and ownership options for the building, taking into account community views. Robust plans for conservation of the murals, suitable interpretation, and their ongoing management are also required, underpinned by an enforceable planning condition or planning obligation (Section 75 agreement). Historic Churches Scotland (the former Scottish Redundant Churches Trust) has approached Downing Group to express serious interest in acquiring the building. As with other properties it already owns, Historic Churches Scotland would work actively for the public good – to preserve the fabric, to enable greater accessibility, and to provide interpretation of not only the murals but also the history of the hospital.

[PHOTOS: Page 3 top and page 4 by Diane Holdsworth; Page 3 foot by Elizabeth Cumming]

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LOCAL MEMORIES/SPOTLIGHT/BENCH

Do you remember Joe?

Brian Adair writes about a former Grange resident

The property we purchased in Blackford Road in 1970 had been the home of Joe Sharp. The owners had died in the 1930s and left the property to the Anti-Vivisection Society subject to Joe Sharp's life rent. He looked after the half acre garden, the coach house, stables, hayloft and small flat until he died in 1968.

In addition to living off what he produced from the garden, he also did some other Grange gardens, including, in the 1940s, that of Mrs Sutherland who lived in Blackford Road and was the mother of the famous Edinburgh painter, Alan Sutherland.

In 1970 we converted the property into our home and Mrs Sutherland, a very friendly lady, used to come to the house for coffee with my wife. When she looked out to the garden where four mature apple trees bore loads of fruit, she would smile: "Old Sharp", she would say, "said these trees will ne'er dae and removed them to his own garden." Last year, we had the biggest apple crop ever!

The late Alan Sutherland, who has painted portraits of the Duke of Edinburgh, Sir Alec Douglas-Home and many other eminent persons, did a portrait of Old Sharp which hung in his mother's house. I was always fascinated by it and the character of the person created by the artist's brush strokes. I had a longing to acquire the painting to hang in our home and Old Sharp's original home.

The next time I saw the painting was in a new house built adjoining our property. Alan had given it as a house warming present to the owners who were family friends. Sharp was getting closer to home and his apple trees!



Our neighbours eventually passed on and I wrote to the lawyers to intimate my interest should the portrait be available for purchase. At first it could not be found but was eventually discovered in storage. Now, Sharp's portrait (left) hangs in our dining room - a room from Sharp's original abode. He has returned home after fifty years.

Some more mature residents in the Grange may remember Joe Sharp. If so, I would love to hear any stories (brian.adair@virginmedia.com). Joe looks quite a character, but one who had a hard life.

SPOTLIGHT on Donald Henderson

The nineteenth in a series telling you about your Grange Association contacts



We moved to the Grange in 2014, primarily to be in the Sciennes catchment (our daughter was then 2 and my son was on the way). We moved from a New Town basement, and two things struck us immediately. Firstly, the light! We were no longer living subterraneanly. We have a fabulously open view, looking down the back gardens of Grange

Road. It feels like we are living in the countryside. Secondly, we realised that people smiled at each other in the street, and even spoke to strangers. It felt immediately we had joined a thriving local community, which we have been doing our best to contribute to.

My wife Cath and I are policy civil servants, in my case with almost 40 years experience, and my wife almost 20. We have worked in diverse subjects, in Scotland, London and Brussels, and in my case in the Gulf on attachment to the FCO.

We are all now very happily settled in the Grange. We love that we can walk or cycle to local services - shops, school, library, swimming, park, museum. The perfect place to live, at least for us.

Dorothy Ryle (1931-2019) memorial bench

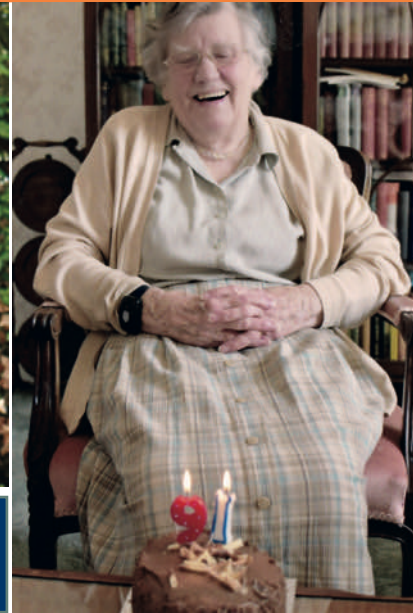
One of Dorothy Ryle's favourite places to walk was Grange Cemetery. She was a crucial instigator of the restoration of many fallen gravestones, was a leading figure in the planting of trees there and often lamented the fact that there were not enough benches for visitors to rest on. The Grange Association committee decided it would be a fitting mark of our respect for her decades of service to the Association and to the community to have a bench installed in the cemetery in her honour. On 31 October 2019, the bench was put in place.



PROFILE - Norah's Arks



NORAH MACFARLANE, aged 91, speaks to JENNY DAWE about living in Findhorn Place



Findhorn Place, 1961



Findhorn Place, 1956

Norah MacFarlane contacted the Association some time ago wondering whether she is the oldest person in Findhorn Place and whether anyone can rival her record of having lived in three different houses in the same street in the Grange. Norah's fine looks and happy demeanour belie her age of 91. Some of the precise details of house moves have faded but this is the story of a fairly typical Grange resident who has loved living in the area.

Norah, an only child, was born Norah McCormack in 1928 in the seaside town of Eastbourne, in modern East Sussex. She was keener to talk of the life of her late husband than of her own but one of her strongest childhood memories is of evacuation to Hertfordshire for two years during the war.

Her first job was in a bank. Norah left that after a few years and recalls with relish: "The bank was horrified when I told them I was leaving to work in the Burgh Treasurer's Office. They were even more horrified when I told them the reason: I was fed up of feeling like a permanent junior, being pushed down the ladder by men returning home from the forces after the war."

Norah had a responsible job at the Burgh Treasurer's, auditing the salaries and wages. She was clearly ahead of her time in her remembered resentment that the Treasurer got more in car allowance than she did in her pay packet. After a period in the audit department, Norah was promoted to take charge of a team operating newly-introduced punched card tabulators. Her employment at the Burgh Treasurer's suited Norah well. She had always had a good head for figures and there was soon an added interest when she met Jim MacFarlane who started as a Graduate Assistant in the Finance Department of Eastbourne Corporation in 1949. Norah and Jim married in church in Eastbourne in July 1954. Jim (James Matthew MacFarlane) was born in 1924 in Glen Elgin, Moray. Like Norah, he was an only child. His father, George, was a Customs and Excise Officer. Norah comments

that her father-in-law's family on both sides had run distilleries and George took up this career because he did not want to make money out of whisky on principle! Norah adds: "I was amazed when I came to Scotland to find just how many distilleries there are."

Jim's abilities and interests were in the humanities. Clearly very proud that he had gained first class degrees from both Aberdeen and Oxford, Norah says, "He was a very clever man but I was the numbers person. Jim was the literate one." Norah now gets great pleasure from her five grandchildren with photographs of their four graduations on the wall, "just waiting for the collage I will make when the fifth graduates soon from Edinburgh University."

How did Norah end up in the Grange? "Jim was not really enjoying his work in Eastbourne and was happy when he found a job in administration at Edinburgh University. He worked there till the end, described by a professor as "Head of the Hume Tower", gaining a lot of respect because he was an academic equal of the staff he dealt with. He always said he never wanted to be a lecturer himself because he thought it would be boring teaching the same things year after year to younger and younger students." To start with, Jim came north on his own, staying with his parents in Stirling. Soon, however, the family was reunited in University-let accommodation in George Square. They enjoyed their time there. Norah notes: "It was a very elegant square and we had a key to George Square Gardens which was delightful. Living there gave us a chance to take our time to see what area would suit us best for permanent residence in Edinburgh."

The area they chose was the Grange. They decided it was a perfect place for them to bring up children and be within easy distance of Jim's work. Their first home in the Grange was a ground floor flat in Findhorn Place. "Jim had a two-hour lunch break in those days and could get back to the house. It was wonderful to have his help with our two small

Norah's Arks cont./LOCAL MATTERS



The family in 1959

children. The house had a back garden that was fully enclosed, so perfectly safe for children to play in."

The move to their second home in Findhorn Place came about because Norah's mother-in-law died and Norah and Jim said they would look after Jim's father. They did not consider living anywhere

but close to where they were and bought a bigger home in Findhorn Place. It had a sitting room and bedroom for Jim's father with a fine view looking down Dick Place. Norah describes it as "a big house where the afternoon sun shone in and we had lovely sunsets." It proved ideal for the family. The boys were now at secondary school and her father-in-law ate with them all but could retreat to his own quarters whenever he wanted. The whole family enjoyed watching sports programmes together but, with his own television, Norah's father-in-law could choose to watch whatever he wanted when he wanted.

The extended family holidayed together in Scotland but, at some point in the summer, Norah, Jim and the two boys would go south every

year to visit Norah's family in Eastbourne. Norah remembers Eastbourne as a pleasant place for her sons to holiday by the sea. "They particularly enjoyed special Sunday morning walks to the pier."



Eastbourne Pier

Norah's life changed in 1980 when Jim died unexpectedly at the age of 56 from a growth in the pancreas. He had

outlived his own father by only two years. She was glad that their younger son had graduated before Jim died. She also remains proud that Edinburgh University set up an annual academic prize in her husband's name - the James MacFarlane Prize, awarded to a student in the Junior Honours Philosophy class who has written the best essay submitted for the prize.

Norah's move to her third and current house in Findhorn Place came when she had less need for space but still wanted to have at least one spare room for her mother and friends to visit. Her mother's last two months were spent in Edinburgh. She was on her way back to Eastbourne when she died in Norah's arms at King's Cross Station.

Norah MacFarlane still enjoys living in Findhorn Place with happy memories of her many years in the area. Some things have changed for her. Up until recently she could go wherever she needed to go but is now not quite so mobile. It's been many years since she was a cub leader, taking the youngsters on hostel trips and reading stories to settle the home-sick ones; and a while since Salisbury Church (now a lighting shop) played an important part in her life. She was very disappointed when diminishing congregations and the upkeep of the large building led to Salisbury Church uniting with Mayfield Church over 25 years ago. "I do get taken to Mayfield but have never felt at home there in the way I did at Salisbury."

Some things have not changed. She still enjoys her family, with one son settled in Glasgow and the other in Edinburgh, and looks forward to grandchildren visiting. She admits to being quite pleased when she heard that her grandchildren, when younger, had said "When you get to Grandma's, you'll get something yummy." She had thought everyone could bake but found it was not the case.

What definitely has not changed is her abiding pleasure that, over 60 years ago, they chose the Grange as the ideal place for them to settle in Edinburgh.

Grange Award 2020 - Final call for entries

The Grange Award is presented biennially at the Association's AGM to the owner or developer of a site that has contributed significantly to the amenity and appearance of the Grange. A Members' e-mail in December invited **nominations for a development in the Grange for the award**. There is still time to nominate a development (your own or someone else's) which you consider enhances the area for those who live and work here. This can include new buildings, extensions, refurbishment, boundary walls or landscaping, including tree planting, completed since January 2017. You do not need to be a member to submit a nomination.

Please send nominations, stating the elements of the development that you consider merit the 2020 Award, to planning@grangeassociation.com by **3 February 2020**.

How to reduce our carbon footprint

The Grange Association Committee has recently discussed possible areas on which we might campaign to try to reduce carbon emissions in our area. This was partly highlighted in the talk given in December by Professor Roy Thomson. We would welcome advice about what is possible and or practical.

Many of us live in Victorian stone houses which are difficult to keep warm - should we insulate, install solar panels or heat pumps? Many of us drive petrol or diesel cars - should we campaign for street charging points for electric cars?

Please contact any Committee member with offers of help and/or suggestions.

NATURE NOTES from Tom Breheny/AAH

Falcons in the City

Recently I watched a hovering kestrel being mobbed by hostile magpies above the Woodland Trust plantation beside Blackford Hill. Those belligerent pyats had gathered in the hawthorn bushes on the rim of the old quarry and the kestrel was chased off. Soon after, a peregrine falcon passed over the quarry in the direction of Craigmillar Castle and the magpies kept a low profile, hunkering down in those thorn bushes. The lightweight kestrel is a lesser threat to larger birds, feeding mainly on mice and voles, but the powerful peregrine is a force to be reckoned with. It's thought that some prey species of raptors are less concerned when they recognize that their mortal enemies are not in hunting mode. A full crop, or craw, can give raptors a non-hungry appearance in profile. (In the Autumn at grain harvest time on the Braids, flocks of woodpigeon fly over our house to roost in the Astley Ainsley grounds and we can clearly see their bulging crops in silhouette).

For the past three years a pair of wild peregrines have nested on the crags close to Holyrood Palace, with the majority of park visitors unaware of their presence unless the falcons were screeching and flaunting themselves aloft. Those haughty avian aristocrats are full time Reekies, compared with another VIP who honours us with a fleeting annual visit to our Scottish capital for the garden party, cucumber sandwiches and an interesting assemblage of kenspeckle feathered bunnets.

I've had the good fortune to observe those magnificent falcons at relatively close quarters with the aid of binoculars, elbows firmly planted on the car roof. Patience is the name of the game when observing the movement of falcons. They are surprisingly well camouflaged when perching high on the rocky ledges and it's the long streaks of guano that usually indicate their favoured resting places. After heavy rain the perches are less obvious. Unfortunately, this year there's been no sign of fledglings, which meant less activity by the pair and a more leisurely pace. Not ideal for over-excited twitchers with zoom lenses, ready and waiting for action. It was usually the female of the pair that came back with street pigeons to the plucking platform. I watched her working away, ripping the feathers from a stock dove, while her



Kestrel
by adeg, Pixabay

smaller male partner looked on, as the loose feathers drifted across the face of the crags in the breeze. Perhaps that disproportionate division of gendered labour is commonplace throughout the natural world, including humans. There were several woodpigeons feeding safely on the elder trees around the nest site, unmolested. When the falcon flew off hunting, she usually headed east in the direction of Leith docks. I was guessing that she was preying mainly on the flocks of feral street pigeons which were probably less hassle to deal with than struggling with their sorsie cousins, the heavier woodpigeons, closer to home.

Perhaps the Port of Leith is the falcon equivalent of shopping at Aldi or Lidl. Hovering kestrels can also make convenient targets for high-flying peregrines who stoop down on them unseen: a bolt from the blue. I once recovered the fresh skeletal remains of a decapitated kestrel from the cliffs at St Abbs Head and salvaged the wings. I still use an eagle feather, found on the Isle of Mull many years ago, to wipe



Peregrine falcon
Kevsphotos, Pixabay



Peregrine falcon
by skeeze, Pixabay

the stoor from my computer screen each morning. In crofting communities a dried hen's wing was often used in the kitchen to sweep away the loose flour from the baking board.

One stormy winter's afternoon on a grouse moor in the Lammermuir Hills, we stopped the car on the single track road approaching a cattle grid, not far from the summit. It was a sudden flash of movement against the darkening sky on the horizon that caught our attention. We drove slowly forward and parked about 50 yards short of the action. It was a female peregrine making low-level elegant stoops at something on the ground beside the gate. The point of interest was a rabbit pursued by a stoat in and out of the heather and back onto the road again. Seconds later the inquisitive falcon cast upwards, riding the gale, and disappeared into the clouds. We remained seated in the car waiting patiently but didn't witness the final outcome of the ground attack. The blood-curdling screaming of a terrified rabbit with a weasel or stoat ripping at the back of its neck with its needle sharp teeth is something one doesn't easily forget and I've witnessed the drama several times over the years.

ASTLEY AINSLIE SITE UPDATE from Roger Kellett: As reported in the September newsletter, we are waiting for the Edinburgh Council planners to produce a Place Brief which will state the restrictions and opportunities of the Astley Ainslie site for potential developers. The planners have decided they cannot produce this brief until NHS Lothian has carried out a landscape and heritage assessment. This means it will be several more weeks before the brief becomes available for comment. Further updates on our website <https://astleyainslie.wordpress.com>, by group email and in the newsletter.

TREES/ENVIRONMENT/USEFUL CONTACTS

Blight and affliction

The case of a tree being diseased, or allegedly diseased, is frequently cited as the reason for removing it. Over the past few months I have had enquiries about trees affected by fireblight and by ash dieback. Fireblight affects ornamental crab apples, cherries and rowans. Of the rowans, the pink-fruited kinds *Sorbus vilmorinii* and *S. pseudovilmorinii* and the variety Joseph Rock seem particularly susceptible - three young trees in front of Marchmont St Giles church have succumbed. But the native mountain ash, more frequent in gardens, is also quite commonly affected. Ash die-back has been seen in young trees behind the houses on Mortonhall Road, beside the sewage-ridden Jordan Burn.

Ash dieback, sometimes called Chalara (one of the names for the fungus causing it), is a relatively recent introduction to Britain but has spread rapidly since it was first detected in 2012. Because of the extent to which it has become established, statutory measures to control its spread have now largely been abandoned.

This contrasts with the approach taken for Dutch elm disease. The virulent form of the disease was introduced into Britain in the 1960s and within ten years or so it led to the virtual disappearance of mature elms from the English countryside. It spread more slowly into Scotland, where the native wych elm is less susceptible to the bark beetle that transmits it.

In Edinburgh the council has a long-standing policy of controlling the disease and a significant number of elms remain. The council carries out inspections in late summer to identify affected trees - the disease is recognisable in the early stages by patches of yellow foliage. Diseased trees are marked with a yellow or orange cross. In the past, affected parts have sometimes been removed with a view to saving a tree, but diseased trees are generally felled - as happened recently to one of five rather fine trees on Sciennes Road. Where a tree on private land is diseased, as a couple of years back on Relugas Road, the council will issue a notice requiring it to be felled, or it can act to remove the tree itself and charge the owner for the work.

Although it is difficult to believe, the council estimates that there are still around 15,000 elms in Edinburgh, and Wikipedia claims that, of all parks and gardens in the UK, the Meadows and Leith Links have particularly high 'concentrations'. There were formerly one or two English elms in the Grange (e.g. Hope Terrace) and in Marchmont, but these have long since gone. Many of the surviving trees on the Meadows are Huntingdon elms. In 2016 the council was reportedly removing 1,000 elms per annum. Fortunately, it appears to be planting some resistant kinds as replacements.

More on fireblight and ash die-back next time.

Peter Pitkin

Leaf clearing success

About 80 people volunteered to help with leaf clearing last Autumn. As in 2018, the Council provided us with bags for the leaves and collected the filled bags - we had kept the main equipment, brushes and shovels, from 2018. The campaign started in October and continued to the beginning of December. Groups of volunteers worked in particular streets, or areas, on Sunday afternoons - we were lucky in that most of these days were dry and sunny. There could be up to 20 people helping in these team efforts - and most seemed to actually enjoy the work, exercise and meeting neighbours. Several others worked independently in streets near their homes. Some exceptional individuals (you know who you are) did a huge amount of work and really helped to make the campaign such a success. Many people thanked us by email, when passing by when someone was working, or by deliberately coming out to thank a team. Others commented that we hadn't cleared their streets! I've noticed (mid-December) that streets we had completely cleared now have considerable collections of newly fallen leaves. It would, of course, be helpful if all the trees in our area could shed their leaves at the same time!

The Council gave us publicity in an article in the *Evening News* (followed up by one in the *Times*) partly aimed at encouraging other areas to arrange similar campaigns. Discussions with the Council imply that they are keen to support us in Autumn 2020. We thank the Council for their support, particularly in collecting filled bags so promptly. Many people involved in the campaign are Grange Association members but several are not. We do need to get more people involved - even if only to agree to clear the street outside their homes. We love our trees but fallen leaves can cause problems for walkers, especially the elderly and frail, so helping to clear these is important.

Please get in touch with any comments on this campaign and suggestions for improvement next Autumn.

Sue Tritton

USEFUL CONTACTS

MP for Edinburgh South: Ian Murray

Tel: 0131 662 4520 ian.murray.mp@parliament.uk
Office: 31 Minto Street, Edinburgh EH9 2BT

MSP for Edinburgh Southern: Daniel Johnson

0131 541 2145 daniel.johnson.msp@parliament.scot
Office: 134 Comiston Road, Edinburgh EH10 5QN

Local Councillors

Tel: 0131 200 2000

Email: first name.surname@edinburgh.gov.uk

Address: City of Edinburgh Council, City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh EH1 1YJ;

[Southside/Newington](#)

Steve Burgess

Alison Dickie

Ian Perry

Cameron Rose

[Morningside](#)

Nick Cook

Melanie Main

Neil Ross

Mandy Watt

PLANNING UPDATE by Nigel Ayton

All planning applications in the Grange can be viewed at: <http://gaedin.co.uk/wp/planning-2>
 Check here to find whether you need permission to do work to your home or to lop any tree in the Grange:
<http://gaedin.co.uk/wp/planning-2/planning-guidance>

Since the last newsletter, which included 14 applications or appeals pending, there have been 37 decisions and a further 38 new applications or appeals for planning or listed building consent in the Grange. We lodged comments on six of these new applications. We e-mail members near each application to seek their views before making any comment or objection. The approvals have included the new primary school to be built in Canaan Lane.

Remember to nominate your favourite recent development for the **Grange Award 2020** (see page 7 for details).

PLANNING APPLICATIONS and DECISIONS Sept - Dec 2019

Applications granted:

47A Sciennes Road EH9 1NS Convert garage to bedroom
***19 St Catherine's Place EH9 1NU** Convert garage; reconfigure front garden
2F 3 Palmerston Road EH9 1TL Replacement windows
11 Mansionhouse Road EH9 1TZ Replacement windows and patio door
*** 48A Lauder Road EH9 1UE** Parking bay in garden and charging point (modified app'n)
33 Hope Terrace EH9 2AP Extension and widening of driveway
18A Hope Terrace EH9 2AR Widen Bowling Club gate for disabled access
GF 31 Blackford Road EH9 2DT Single storey extension: Length & materials variation
43 Blackford Road EH9 2DT Widen driveway entrance
13 Lauder Road EH9 2EN Variations: Garage position; additional extension roof light
1F 80 Grange Loan EH9 2EP Dormers to 2F (amended)
***¶137 Grange Loan EH9 2ER** Basement conversion
53 Grange Loan EH9 2ER Replace rear extension; new terrace and alter windows
11 Mortonhall Road EH9 2HS Sub-divide villa to form 2 flats
8 Mortonhall Road EH9 2HW Reslate roof
*** GF1 20 Mortonhall Road EH9 2HW** Replace conservatory with single storey extension (modified application)
Flat 8, 1 Dun-Ard Garden EH9 2HZ uPVC replacement windows
32 Dick Place EH9 2JB Alter side and rear windows; replace conservatory and decking
34 Dick Place EH9 2JB Summer house and greenh'se
26 Mansionhouse Road EH9 2JD Rear timber extension with zinc roof; railings to front wall
29 Mansionhouse Road EH9 2JD Orangery
25 Lauder Road EH9 2JG Remove garage; new side entrance; remodel sunroom; new terrace
27 Lauder Road EH9 2JG LBC for internal alterations to reinstate original
22A Findhorn Place EH9 2JP Alterations to rear windows
17 Findhorn Place EH9 2JR New window in rear dormer
GF 6 Grange Terrace EH9 2LD LBC for replacement front windows
2F 18 Grange Terrace EH9 2LD LBC to upgrade windows to slimline double glazing
1F 33 Fountainhall Road EH9 2LN Two dormers to side
***31 St Alban's Road EH9 2LT** Deck and pergola in rear garden. Artificial grass and bin store in front
9 Dalrymple Crescent EH9 2NU External rainwater pipes
71 Relugas Road EH9 2PX Porch to front. Conservatory to rear. Basement conversion

Applications granted cont.

13 Relugas Place EH9 2PY Shower room extension to front
Oaklands, 35B Canaan Lane EH10 4SG Demolish to make way for new primary school
Deanbank, 35 & 35B Canaan Lane EH10 4SG New primary school; refurbish Deanbank House

Applications refused, withdrawn or appealed:

Astley Ainslie hospital, 143 Grange Loan EH9 2HL Fencing to rear of 145-157 Grange Loan: Refused
36 Dick Place EH9 2JB Enlarge LGF kitchen; new external door; new window: LBC refused
Δ 30 Grange Terrace EH9 2LE Appeal dismissed; enforcement applied against uPVC window

Applications pending at 13 December 2019:

2F 15 Grange Court EH9 1PX Enlarge balcony
7B Palmerston Road EH9 1TL Form new 2nd floor; extend to rear
7 Chalmers Crescent EH9 1TS Convert garage; new windows
15 Hatton Place (Clic Villa) EH9 1UD Reinstate from hostel to private house; parking in front garden
47 Lauder Road EH9 1UE Add rear balcony and relocate external stair; reclad extension
12 Blackford Road EH9 2DS New external openings
3 Whitehouse Terrace EH9 2EU Rear extension; new summerh'se & garage; widen gateway to 3.8m
25A South Oswald Road EH9 2HH Casement windows; Bi-fold doors
***39 Dick Place EH9 2JA** Raise roof; extension and new dormer; replace windows; form second driveway and entrance
36 Dick Place EH9 2JB New windows to basement (Revised LBC application)
31 Lauder Road EH9 2JG Replacement windows to rear
***4 Seton Place EH9 2JT** Rear extension and tree removal
9 Cumin Place EH9 2JX CLE for rear garage door; CLP to relocate gate pole
***9 Relugas Road EH9 2NE** CLE for art studio in back garden
44 Mayfield Road EH9 2NH Three roof windows to side

LBC = Listed Building Consent
 CLP (CLE) = Certificate of Lawfulness Proposed (Existing)
 GF/LGF = Ground Floor/Lower Ground Floor
 1F/2F = First Floor/Second Floor

* Comment or objection submitted by Grange Association
 ¶ Application modified thereafter
 ‡ Appeal pending
 Δ Appeal concluded

GARDENING

Gardening matters

If you are looking for winter blooms that come up every year, there are a surprising number to choose from. The snowdrop photo was taken at Shepherd House in Inveresk on 24 February 2019 with some pretty hellebores in the background. Clumps of snowdrops can easily be divided and spread around the garden at this time of year after the flowers have faded.

Some rhododendrons and azaleas make a very early display. The photo below was taken in my garden on 26 February 2019. This small shrub (probably *Rhododendron praecox*) bursts into vibrant colour reliably every year with minimal



attention. They do require acid soil, but judging from the many gardens in the Grange with displays of rhododendrons, azaleas and camellias, that is not a problem. I give these plants an annual dose of

ericaceous plant food and stand back. They do not need much in the way of pruning and are seldom troubled by pests. Real enthusiasts, however, swear by deadheading. I confess I do

not usually get round to this.

Sweet-smelling shrubs are another delight at this time of year. A few years ago, a garden group member gave me a *Daphne bholua* grown from a cutting. The delicate pink flowers smell delicious in January and tempt me out to enjoy them even on grey days. As I write, I can see from my window a neighbour's mahonia, an architectural evergreen shrub with racemes of yellow flowers in winter. Although usually grown for its form and foliage, the flowers have a sweet lily of the valley scent and it is worth cutting a sprig or two to bring indoors. Other examples of highly perfumed, easy to grow shrubs for winter and early spring are sweet box (*sarcococca*) and *Viburnum bodnantense*. A small investment in any of



these will kickstart your gardening year, give pleasure for years and need very little maintenance.

See you at the Grange Fair on 9 May. In the meantime, keep gardening!

Edythe Murie

To join the Grange Garden Exchange group and to hear about future activities write to: gardens@grangeassociation.com or phone Edythe Murie 07779 763930

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EVENTS/Ads

Dates for your diary

Grange Association 2019-2020 talks

Tuesday 04 February: *Phone scams and Cybercrime - how vulnerable are you?* Mike Smith from Crime Prevention, Fettes Police Station, will give information and advice on distressing modern crimes.

Tuesday 03 March: AGM, followed by *My Life of Crime*. Aline Templeton, crime novelist, best known perhaps for her DI Marjory Fleming series, will speak on her techniques for creating a riveting read.

Meetings are in St Catherine's Argyle Church

All welcome (members free, guests £4)

Coffee, tea and biscuits at 19:00 precede the main talk at 19:30 (AGM: doors open 18:30 for 19:00)

To contact our EVENTS ORGANISER, Isobel Miller, please phone (667 4235) or email events@grangeassociation.com

GRANGE FAIR 2020

SATURDAY 09 MAY 13:00-16:30

The 7th Grange Fair will take place in a car-free zone in and around Newington Library with hours of fun for all ages from a mix of stalls, entertainment, games and more.

Any surplus generated will be donated to local groups. Last year, proceeds from the Fair went to First Friday Friends, Butterflies Cafe, Fresh Start, Braidwood Centre and Newington Library.

Please contact Heather at grange.fair@yahoo.co.uk if you can help with new ideas, fundraising or wish to volunteer.



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